extending Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) in the country. The SPFS provides a comprehensive framework for the range of activities, projects and programmes that are undertaken for the purpose of enhancing food security in rainfed areas. The strategy for extending SPFS is based on a decentralized and participatory approach.

(b) and (c) The Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development is implementing three main land development and area development Programmes namely, Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programmes (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) through the watershed development approach under the Guidelines for Watershed Development w.e.f. 1.4.1995. These programmes aim at increasing the soil and moisture conservation and productivity of wastelands/degraded lands in the watershed thereby increasing income of the people living in these areas. They are being implemented through community participation following the watershed approach. The participation of the local community in planning, implementation, monitoring and training for the management of watersheds has been recognised as a critical input in these programmes. The project activities of the watershed development projects under these programmes as decided by the Watershed Committees and the Watershed Associations of the local people living in or around the project areas. DPAP is being implemented in 961 Blocks of 180 districts in 16 States of the country and DDP in 232 Blocks of 40 districts in 7 States. Watershed Development Projects under IWDP are generally sanctioned in non-DPAP and non-DDP Blocks. At present 11738 projects under DPAP, 5353 projects under DDP and 298 projects under IWDP are under implementation in the country.

Allocation of funds to Madhya Pradesh for Rural development during Ninth Plan

425. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount allotted to Madhya Pradesh, district-wise, for rural development schemes during the Ninth Plan.

(b) the total amount utilized, so far, in the State under the various rural development schemes; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government for maximum utilisation of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected.

(c) The Minsitry of Rural Development have developed a comprehensive system of monitoring through various mechanisms such as periodic Progress Reports, inspection by the State Government officials, field visits by Area-Officers, Meetings of the Performance Review Committee etc. to ensure achievements of target fixed uner the Schemes and maximum utilisation of funds. A limit of 15% has also been placed on the opening balance the States may have at the beginning of the year. It has been impressed upon the State Chief Ministers also, from time to time, to ensure better utilisation of funds. Minister of Rural Development has also been visiting various States for review of the programmes and impressing upon the State authorities the need for effective and faster implementation of the Schemes, so as to achieve the target.

Houses constructed under IAY in Rajasthan

†426. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of houses constructed from 1985 to 2000 in Churu district of Rajasthan under the Indira Awas Yojana togetherwith the village-wise number of such houses and details of amount allocated for the same;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.